State of Palestine
Ministry of Health
Minister's Office

دولـــة فـلسـطين
وزارة الصحة
مكتب الوزير

Updated Report: Monday, 26th February 2024

143 days of the Israeli aggression against Gaza

Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine

Catastrophic situation in numbers; the deadliest year for Palestinians

From October 7th until February 26th, 2024

Some of the information contained in this report is as of Sunday evening, 25th of February 2024.

The Emergency Operations Center at the Ministry of Health in Ramallah supervises the data collection process through its offices in Gaza. Numbers are updated every 24 hours. These numbers reflect confirmed statistics only but do not necessarily reflect all victims due to the fact that many victims are still missing under the rubble.

The escalating atrocities in Palestine as a result of Israeli aggression surpass mere numerical reporting, constituting severe violations of all human rights. The health system is deliberately targeted, amounting to genocide on the Palestinian people. This insufferable situation demands immediate intervention. We call upon all international humanitarian and health organizations to urgently enter Gaza, ensuring protection for health workers, facilities, and civilians. Tangible advocacy and pressure for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the ongoing siege on Gaza is imperative to halt this humanitarian crisis.[1][2][3]

Current Situation in numbers: (Gaza)

- About 29,800 thousand Palestinian are martyrs killed by the Israeli Occupation in Gaza since October 7th, 2023. About 70 per cent of those are women (about 7950) and children (about 12,500). As of then, about 70 thousand Palestinians have been injured a large proportion of them are children. It is estimated that more than 8,000 are missing under rubble. Obtaining accurate figures about missing persons due to continues attacks and inadequate rescue missions.

- On 21 February, a shelter hosting MSF staff and their families in Gaza was shelled, killing two family members of MSF staff and injuring six others. MSF staff are treating patients with catastrophic injuries, amputations, crushed limbs, and severe burns, despite a lack of hospital beds, medications and supplies. Surgeons are

[1] https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/gaza-un-experts-call-international-community-prevent-genocide-against

[2] https://www.un.org/unispal/document/gaza-un-experts-decry-bombing-of-hospitals-and-schools-as-crimes-against-humanity-call-for-prevention-of-genocide/

[3] https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20231229-pre-01-00-en.pdf?fbclid=PAAaanjzZcW1N3X8xUa5n2vOtSmJXRZGtuX25ee7DicJ6IvDv9355FU9Nco_w_aem_Af1J7V-j8lYZ0pM_D1CQooNZ6b2lctzS9pzFrRP92oaCO9tBVKTDkMB8DYqdS1aGUDk

reusing basic gauze on their patients and have had to carry out amputations without anesthesia on children. Patients need sophisticated care and long and intensive rehabilitation, but since 7 October, MSF have been forced to evacuate nine different health facilities.

- On 19 February 2024 UN experts expressed alarm over credible allegations of egregious human rights violations to which Palestinian women and girls continue to be subjected in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank: "We are particularly distressed by reports that Palestinian women and girls in detention have also been subjected to multiple forms of sexual assault, such as being stripped naked and searched by male Israeli army officers. At least two female Palestinian detainees were reportedly raped while others were reportedly threatened with rape and sexual violence," the experts said. They also noted that photos of female detainees in degrading circumstances were also reportedly taken by the Israeli army and uploaded online.[4]

- On 22 February, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) reported that its VHF system had been disabled, due to artillery shelling near Al Amal Hospital in Khan Younis, aggravating challenges in communicating with field teams, in particular ambulances. Some 140 sick and injured patients, their families, and healthcare workers, still remain in Nasser Hospital, also in Khan Younis, which is struggling to operate, with no electricity, running water, sufficient food supplies, or drinking water.

- On 20 February, PRCS Reported that Al Amal hospital in Khan Younis continues to be directly impacted by artillery shelling that led to major damage to its facilities and to casualties. The hospital already faces a lack of fuel reserves to generate electricity for high-risk patients and a near exhaustion of food supplies.

- The Israeli occupation telecommunication blackout is hindering residents in Gaza from accessing crucial lifesaving information, reaching out to first responders, and obstructing various forms of humanitarian response. It also poses challenges for obtaining on-the-ground reports about the situation and any atrocities occurring.

- After the Israeli occupation cut off the electricity supply and depleted fuel reserves for Gaza's sole power plant, the Gaza Strip has been without power since October 11. The communications and fuel shutdown hinders the aid community's efforts to assess Gaza's needs and respond to the growing humanitarian crisis.

Forced Displacement:

- Obtaining an accurate figure of the total number of Forcibly Displaced Persons remains challenging and the Israeli occupation continues to forcibly displace civilians every day. It is estimated that 85% of the population in Gaza (around 1.93 million civilians) are forcibly displaced. including many who have been displaced multiple times, as families are forced to move repeatedly in search of safety. Nearly 1.4 million FDPs were registered in

[4] https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/israelopt-un-experts-appalled-reported-human-rights-violations-against

155 UNRWA facilities across Gaza, of whom about one million are registered in 94 UNRWA shelters in the south. Obtaining accurate data regarding the forcibly displaced persons is challenging outside of these shelters, given difficulties in tracking FDPs staying with host families or in the streets.

- Increased airstrikes in Rafah have heightened fears that they will further hamper overstretched humanitarian operations. Nearly 1.5 million people are in Rafah, more than six times the population in comparison with before 7 October.

- Intense Israeli attacks in and around Khan Younis (southwest of Gaza) over the last four weeks is causing loss of life and damage to civilian infrastructure, including UNRWA's largest shelter in the southern area, the Khan Younis Training Centre (KYTC). This is forcing thousands of Palestinians to flee further south towards Rafah, which is severely overcrowded. At the same time, population movements out of Rafah and towards Deir Al Balah and Nuseirat refugee camps in the Middle Area have been reported, following intensified airstrikes on Rafah.
- UNRWA estimates that at least 396 FDPs sheltering in its shelters have been killed and at least 1,383 injured since 7th of October and 158 UNRWA staff members killed during this period.

Health Care Access:

- As of 22 February, there are 12 partially functional hospitals in the Gaza Strip, including six in northern Gaza and six in the south, in addition to three partly functional fi eld hospitals, according to WHO. As of 18 February, according to UNRWA, only seven out of its 23 health centers are now operational.
- Hospitals in the north are currently providing maternity, trauma, and emergency care services, but they encounter several challenges, including a shortage of medical staff such as specialized surgeons, neurosurgeons, and intensive care personnel.
- Only 150 out of 325 known shelters currently have medical points with minimal capacity.
- There are challenges in accessing blood banks, and this has compelled requests from the forcibly displaced persons who are facing starvation to donate blood to provide treatment for the wounded.

Acute shortage of medical supplies and health professionals at health facilities:

- There is a severe shortage of medical personnel in most health facilities and hospitals with an ever-increasing demand due to the continues Israeli occupation and attacks and the public health catastrophe resulting from the attacks, forcible displacement, and restrictions policies.
- Medicine and medical supplies such as anesthesia, antibiotics, IV fluids, pain medications, insulin, blood, and blood products are in short supply. Hospitals are experiencing a decline in the functionality of electrically dependent medical equipment such as monitors, ventilators, incubators, x-ray and CT machines, lab analyzers, and anesthesia machines.

Public health catastrophe is rapidly evolving in Gaza:

- A public health catastrophe is unfolding in the Gaza Strip despite repeated warnings, and this requires urgent action, warned the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and health clusters on 20 February. According to the

same sources, the water desalination plant in northern Gaza ceased operations in October 2023, all wastewater treatment plants are no longer functional, and 83 per cent of groundwater wells are not operating.

- The dire water and sanitation conditions are also aggravating the state of health in Gaza, with more than 300,000 reported cases of acute respiratory infections and more than 200,000 reported cases of acute watery diarrhea, of whom more than half are children under five, among other outbreaks.
- Decomposing remains pose a risk, heightening the threat of a public health crisis.
- Forcibly Displaced Persons (FDPs) are confronting the dual challenges of displacement and harsh winter conditions, including the risk of flooding. The combination of being forcibly displaced and exposed to cold weather poses significant hardships for this vulnerable population.

Driver*	Baseline	North Gaza	Gaza City	Deir al Balah	Khan Younis	Rafah
Dietary Diversity in children 6-23m	Moderate	Extremely Critical	Insufficient sample	Extremely critical	Extremely critical	Extremely Critical
Dietary diversity in pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW)	No recent data available	Extremely Critical	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical	Extremely Critical	Extremely Critical
Children reporting one or more diseases	Low	Insufficient sample	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical
Acute respiratory infection (ARI) in children under 5 (CU5)	Low	Insufficient sample	Insufficient sample	Critical	Insufficient sample	Critical
Diarrhoea (CU5)	Low	Insufficient sample	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical
Other diseases (fever, vomiting, skin infection)	Low	Insufficient sample	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical	Insufficient Sample	Extremely Critical
Water and sanitation access	Severe	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical	Extremely Critical	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical
Acute malnutrition (by anthropometry) in children 6-23m	Low	Critical	Insufficient sample	Insufficient sample	Insufficient sample	Low

(Table 1: Summary of Nutrition Situation: Nutrition Vulnerability and Situation Analysis – Gaza/Global nutrition cluster – February 2024)

Health Needs and Risks of non-Communicable Diseases Long term conditions:

- 1,100 Patients in need of kidney dialysis
- More than 485,000 People with mental health disorders prior to the recent aggression. There is an increased risk of multiple psychological effects stemming from the intense bombardment, displacement and food insecurity coupled with severe physical injuries such as the loss of body parts. These challenges are further compounded by the devastating impact of seeing the bodies of the casualties around them and losing family members, homes, and dignity.
- 225,000 People with high blood pressure,45,000 Patients living with cardiovascular disease 71,000 Patients living with diabetes.

- More than 2,000 People diagnosed with cancer each year, including 122 children.
- People in Gaza are facing daily intense psychological stressors, including bombardment and severe barriers to fulfilling basic needs including acute shortage of needed medications.
- There is a substantial shortage of essential medication and healthcare services, is addition to the challenging access conditions.

Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health:

- Public health concerns are reportedly mounting across Gaza, disproportionately affecting women. This is due to continued bombardment, the lack of essential food and water supplies, the collapsing health system, and limited access to those in need of urgent assistance. On 16 February, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) emphasized the vulnerabilities facing women: "Everyone in Gaza is hungry, including 50,000 pregnant women, with malnutrition making them more susceptible to disease and less able to recover." Underscoring the immense risks facing pregnant women in Gaza, UNFPA warned: "If the bombs don't kill pregnant women, if disease, hunger and dehydration don't catch up with them, simply giving birth could."
- As of February 2nd, UNICEF estimates 17,000 unaccompanied or separated children in the Gaza Strip, each embodying a poignant narrative of loss and sorrow. This figure accounts for 1% of the total displaced population, which amounts to 1.7 million people.
- Approximately 20,000 infants are born into the devastating impacts of the Israeli war on Gaza. There is around 52,000 Pregnant women, and around 183 Births per day.
- Following the Israeli occupation's attacks on healthcare facilities and personnel, the available resources for assisting expectant mothers and their newborns have dramatically decreased, forcing some to give birth in makeshift tents and unsanitary locations.
- Health workers report a significant increase in the rate of miscarriages and preterm deliveries since the commencement of Israeli attacks on Gaza.

Food insecurity:

- Catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity are reportedly intensifying across Gaza, with growing reports of families struggling to feed their children and a rising risk of hunger-induced deaths in northern Gaza.
- The Global Nutrition Cluster is reporting a steep rise in malnutrition among children and pregnant and breastfeeding women in the Gaza Strip, as food and safe water become increasingly scarce, and disease proliferates. The situation is especially serious in northern Gaza where 1 in 6 children under the age of 2 (15.6 per cent) who were screened at shelters and health centers in January were found to be acutely malnourished. Of these, almost 3 per cent suffered from severe wasting, the most life-threatening form of malnutrition. This rate of 15.6 per cent of wasting among children under the age of two indicates a decline in a population's nutritional status that is unprecedented globally. According to the report. Prior to 7 October, just 0.8per cent of children under 5 in Gaza were acutely malnourished.

- Between 1 January and 12 February, 51 per cent of missions planned by humanitarian partners to deliver aid and undertake assessments to areas to the north of Wadi Gaza were denied access by the Israeli occupation.

- The entire population in the Gaza Strip (2.2 million people) is at an imminent risk of famine as reported by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in December.

Recorded attacks on Health Facilities and personnel:

- Since October 7th there is an ongoing direct and indirect attacks on health facilities and personnel. The Israeli occupation forces continues to bomb and attack hospitals, clinics, and ambulances. Furthermore, the Israeli occupation forces have killed and abducted several health personal, in addition to blocking the lifesaving medical and humanitarian aid delivery to Gaza.
- Continuous Israeli occupation forces bombardments pose a significant threat to the safety of medical staff, patients, and the estimated 7,000 IDPs seeking refuge at the Al Amal hospital.
- The medical teams on the ground are encountering difficulties in transferring critically injured individuals from Nasser Hospital to nearby health facilities, exacerbating the challenges in providing necessary medical care.
- On January 23rd, the Israeli occupation forces bombed Al-Amal Hospital in Khan Younis leading to casualties.
- In total 300 attacks on health facilities and personnel. This is the highest recorded total of attacks on healthcare facilities and their personnel worldwide.
- 340 health personnel martyred and 770 injured by the Israeli occupation in attacks.
- 100 Health workers detained/arrested.
- 150 Health facilities affected including 30 Hospitals damaged, in addition to 123 Ambulances damaged.

The West Bank, including Jerusalem:

- UNICEF's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa stated that "this year has been the deadliest year on record for children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, with conflict-related violence reaching unprecedented levels."
- WHO reports a significant rise in attacks against health care facilities and personnel in West Bank, with over 340 attacks reported since 7 October.
- Since 7 October 2023, 406 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli occupation forces and 4,600 Palestinians have been injured across the West Bank, and Jerusalem.
- Since 7 October, at least 198 Palestinian households comprising 1,208 people, including 586 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. Another 537 Palestinians, including 238 children, have been displaced since 7 October following the destruction of 82 residential structures during other operations carried out by Israeli forces across the West Bank.

Urgent Needs:

- Immediate cessation of Israeli brutal war against Palestinian civilians.
- Urgent implementation of international humanitarian laws protecting health institutions and civilians.
- Immediate and unconditional entry of humanitarian and health supplies into Gaza.
- Aiding in evacuating the wounded in need for treatment abroad.
- Halt forcible displacement of civilians.
- Urgent support for search and rescue operations.

STATE OF PALESTINE
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